

What is claimed is:

1. A polynucleotide comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, or a degenerate variant of SEQ ID NO: 1.
2. A polynucleotide comprising the nucleotide sequence of a  $\beta$ -amyloid peptide-binding protein (BBP) and of clone BBP1-fl deposited under accession number ATCC 98617, or a degenerate variant of said sequence.
3. A polynucleotide encoding a  $\beta$ -amyloid peptide-binding protein (BBP) encoded by the cDNA insert of clone BBP1-fl deposited under accession number ATCC 98617, or a degenerate variant of said sequence.
4. A polynucleotide comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 from nucleotide 202 to nucleotide 807, or a degenerate variant of said sequence.
5. A polynucleotide comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 from nucleotide 1 to nucleotide 201, or a degenerate variant of said sequence.
6. A polynucleotide comprising the nucleotide sequence of a  $\beta$ -amyloid peptide-binding protein (BBP) of clone pEK196 deposited under accession number ATCC 98399, or a degenerate variant of said sequence.
7. A polynucleotide encoding a  $\beta$ -amyloid peptide-binding protein (BBP) encoded by the cDNA insert of clone pEK196 deposited under accession number ATCC 98399, or a degenerate variant of said sequence.
8. A polynucleotide encoding a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.
9. A polynucleotide encoding a protein comprising a fragment of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 having human  $\beta$ -amyloid peptide binding activity, the fragment comprising the amino acid sequence from amino acid 68 to amino acid 269 of SEQ ID NO: 2.
10. A nucleic acid capable of hybridizing under stringent conditions to a polynucleotide or the complement of a polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of:
  - a) a polynucleotide consisting of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, or a degenerate variant of SEQ ID NO: 1;
  - b) a polynucleotide consisting of the nucleotide sequence of a  $\beta$ -amyloid peptide-binding protein (BBP) and of clone BBP1-fl deposited under accession number ATCC 98617, or a degenerate variant of said sequence;
  - c) a polynucleotide encoding a  $\beta$ -amyloid peptide-binding protein (BBP) encoded by the cDNA insert of clone BBP1-fl deposited under accession number ATCC 98617, or a degenerate variant of said sequence;

d) a polynucleotide consisting of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 from nucleotide 202 to nucleotide 807, or a degenerate variant of said sequence;

e) polynucleotide consisting of the nucleotide sequence of a  $\beta$ -amyloid peptide-binding protein (BBP) of clone pEK196 deposited under accession number ATCC 98399, or a degenerate variant of said sequence;

f) polynucleotide encoding a  $\beta$ -amyloid peptide-binding protein (BBP) encoded by the cDNA insert of clone pEK196 deposited under accession number ATCC 98399, or a degenerate variant of said sequence;

g) a polynucleotide encoding a protein consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2; and

h) a polynucleotide encoding a protein consisting of a fragment of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 having human  $\beta$ -amyloid peptide binding activity, the fragment consisting of the amino acid sequence from amino acid 68 to amino acid 269 of SEQ ID NO: 2

wherein the nucleic acid is also capable of hybridizing under stringent conditions to a polynucleotide or the complement of a polynucleotide consisting of the nucleotide sequence of nucleotides 1-201 of SEQ ID NO: 1, or a degenerate variant thereof.

11. A polynucleotide encoding a peptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 from amino acid 1 to amino acid 67.
12. A polynucleotide according to claim 11 wherein the sequence is the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 from nucleotide 1 to nucleotide 201.
13. A probe or primer capable of hybridizing under stringent conditions to the polynucleotide according to claim 11 or the complement of said polynucleotide.
14. A probe or primer according to claim 13 further comprising the nucleotide sequence of nucleotides 157-201 of SEQ ID NO: 1.
15. A probe or primer according to claim 13 further comprising the nucleotide sequence of nucleotides 172-194 of SEQ ID NO: 1.
16. A polynucleotide comprising at least one expression control sequence operably linked to at least one polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of the polynucleotides of claims 1 to 9 and the nucleic acid of claim 10.
17. A host cell transformed with the polynucleotide of claim 16.
18. The host cell of claim 17 wherein said cell is a prokaryotic or eukaryotic cell.